

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

December 2, 2003

Last week, DHS learned that seven patients at two dialysis centers owned by the same operator (one in Norwalk and one in West Covina) were hospitalized with infections apparently acquired through their dialysis treatment.

The County's Acute Communicable Disease Control and Health Facilities Licensing Units are working to pinpoint the root cause and ensure that other dialysis patients are not infected. However, it is troubling the initial cases date back to September 22, yet DHS was not notified of this disease cluster until November 19. Further, it is unclear whether this notification was an official one or whether a concerned employee of the dialysis centers took it upon himself to notify the County.

It is imperative that health officials are notified immediately of disease clusters and outbreaks so that the public's health is protected. Reputable health providers should have no reason to hide reportable incidents, clusters of disease and other outbreaks from the County and this practice should not be tolerated. I think it important that we are assured that health providers are properly informed of their reporting duties.

-More-

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
BURKE	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
KNABE	_____

I, THEREFORE MOVE, THAT the Director of Health Services and the Director of Public Health, along with the County Counsel, report back in 30 days on ways to improve and strengthen disease reporting procedures and requirements.

#

GT:di